

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A process for the manufacture 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate comprising reacting ketoisophorone with an acylating agent in the presence of an ~~indium~~indium(III) salt as a catalyst.
2. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the ~~indium~~indium(III) salt is indium trichloride or indium tris (trifluoromethanesulfonate).
3. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the acylating agent is an acid anhydride, an acyl halide or an enol ester.
4. (previously presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein the acylating agent is a straight or branched chain alkanoic acid anhydride; a straight or branched chain alkanoyl chloride; or, an enol ester.
5. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of the acylating agent to ketoisophorone is from about 1:1 to about 5:1.
6. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the ~~indium~~indium(III) salt used as the catalyst is from about 0.1 mol-% to about 2 mol-%, based on the amount of ketoisophorone.
7. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the acylating reaction is carried out at a temperature of from about 0°C to about 140°C.

8. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the 2,3, 5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate obtained is converted into (all-*rac*)- $\alpha$ -tocopherol by transesterification to yield 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone and reaction of the latter with isophytol and/or phytol.

9. (previously presented) A process for the manufacture of 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone whereby the 2,3,5- trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate obtained according to claim 1 is used as starting material.

10. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9, whereby the 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate is transesterified to 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone.

11. (withdrawn) A process for the manufacture of  $\alpha$ -tocopherol and its alkanoates, comprising the reaction of ketoisophorone to 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate according to claim 1.

12. (withdrawn) A process for the manufacture of formulations of  $\alpha$ -tocopherol and its alkanoates, comprising the reaction of ketoisophorone to 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate according to claim 1.

13. (previously presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the alkanoic acid anhydride is acetic, propionic or butyric anhydride.

14. (previously presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the alkanoyl chloride is acetyl, propionyl or butyryl chloride.

15. (previously presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the enol ester is isopropenyl acetate or butyrate.

16. (previously presented) The process according to claim 5, wherein the molar ratio is from about 2:1 to about 3:1.

17. (previously presented) The process according to claim 16, wherein the molar ratio is about 3:1.

18. (currently amended) The process according to claim 6, wherein the amount of the ~~indium~~indium(III) salt is from about 0.1 to 1 mol-%.

19. (previously presented) The process according to claim 7, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of from about 25°C to about 90°C.

20. (previously presented) The process according to claim 19, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of from about 25°C to about 70°C.

21. (withdrawn) A process for the manufacture of (all-*rac*)- $\alpha$ -tocopherol and its acetate, comprising the reaction of ketoisophorone to 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate according to claim 11.

22. (withdrawn) A process for the manufacture of formulations of (all-*rac*)- $\alpha$ -tocopherol and its acetate, comprising the reaction of ketoisophorone to 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate according to claim 12.